COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for retrieving information from a site on a network, said apparatus comprising:

a display device;

an operator unit; and

a processor device coupled with a ~~removably-attachable external~~ storage medium, said display device and said operator unit, said ~~removably-attachable external~~ storage medium having prestored therein:

one or more items of first display information each for displaying an emulation screen ~~imitating~~ emulating a screen of ~~any one of one or more predetermined music-piece-data selling sites~~ an online product selling site that is accessible via the network, said first display information including product display information for displaying, on the emulation screen, information describing one or more of a plurality of products, said plurality of products correspond to products displayed on said online product selling site; and

network address information assigned to the selling ~~sites~~ site for calling up ~~any one of~~ the selling ~~sites~~ site,

said processor device being adapted to:

read out a particular one of the items of said first display information stored in said external storage medium;

cause the emulation screen, described by the read-out first display information, to be displayed on said display device, wherein the emulation screen and the screen of the music-

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piece-data selling site ~~imitated~~ emulated by the emulation screen are substantially similar in design and layout ~~function~~;

manipulate, via said operator unit, an access button on the emulation screen displayed on said display device, to thereby read out the network address information of ~~a particular~~ the selling site corresponding to said emulation screen ~~from said external storage medium~~ and transmit the read-out network address information to the network;

~~in response to the transmitted network address information,~~ receive, from said ~~particular~~ selling site via the network, second display information for displaying a screen of the ~~particular~~ selling site; and

~~switch the emulation screen, displayed on said display device, to~~ displaying the screen of the ~~particular~~ selling site on the display device on the basis of the received second display information.

Claim 2-3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method for ~~retrieving~~ using a client apparatus to retrieve information from a site on a network, said method comprising:

distributing in advance, to a client, a ~~removably-attachable external~~ computer-readable storage medium having prestored therein: one or more items of first display information each for displaying an emulation screen ~~imitating~~ emulating a screen of ~~any one of one or more predetermined music-piece-data selling sites~~ an online product selling site that is accessible via the network, and network address information assigned to the selling sites for calling up any one of the selling sites, said first display information including product display information for displaying, on the emulation screen, information describing one or more of a plurality of products, said plurality of products correspond to products displayed on said online product selling site;

reading out a desired one of the items of said first display information stored in said ~~external~~ storage medium;

causing the emulation screen, described by the read-out first display information, to be displayed on a display device, wherein the emulation screen and the screen of the music-piece-data selling site imitated by the emulation screen are substantially similar in design and layout ~~function~~;

receiving a selection of a product ~~desired item of information~~ from the emulation screen displayed on said display device;

reading out the network address information of ~~a particular~~ the selling site corresponding to said emulation screen from said ~~external~~ storage medium and transmitting the read-out network address information to the network;

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in response to the transmitted network address information, receiving, from said particular selling site, via the network, second display information for displaying a screen of the particular selling site; and

switching the emulation screen, displayed on said display device, to displaying the screen of the particular selling site on the display device on the basis of the received second display information.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): A computer program comprising a group of instructions for causing a computer processor of a client apparatus to perform a method for retrieving information from a site on a network, said computer processor operatively coupled to a coupling with a removably attachable external storage medium having prestored therein: one or more items of first display information each for displaying an emulation screen imitating emulating a screen of any one of one or more predetermined music-piece-data selling sites an online product selling site that is accessible via the network, and network address information assigned to the selling sites for calling up any one of the selling sites, said first display information including product display information for displaying, on the emulation screen, information describing one or more of a plurality of products, said plurality of products correspond to products displayed on said online product selling site, said method comprising the steps of:

reading out a desired one of the items of said first display information stored in said external storage medium;

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causing the emulation screen, described by the read-out first display information, to be

displayed on a display device, wherein the emulation screen and the screen of the music-piece-

data selling site ~~imitated~~ emulated by the emulation screen are substantially similar in design and

layout ~~function~~;

receiving selection of a ~~desired item of information~~ product from the emulation screen

displayed on said display device;

reading out the network address information of ~~a particular~~ the selling site corresponding

to said emulation screen from said ~~external~~ storage medium and transmitting the read-out

network address information to the network;

receiving, from said ~~particular~~ selling site, via the network, second display information

for displaying a screen of the ~~particular~~ selling site; and

~~switching the emulation screen, displayed on said display device, to~~ displaying the screen

of the ~~particular~~ selling site on the display device on the basis of the received second display

information.

Claims 7-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~An external~~ A storage medium readable by an apparatus

containing a group of instructions to be executed by said apparatus, ~~said external storage medium~~

~~being removably attached to said apparatus,~~ said ~~external~~ storage medium having prestored

therein: one or more items of first display information each for displaying an emulation screen

~~imitating~~ emulating a screen of ~~any one of one or more predetermined music-piece-data selling~~

~~sites~~ an online product selling site that is accessible via a network, and network address

information assigned to the selling sites for calling up any one of the selling sites, <u>said first display information including product display information for displaying, on the emulation screen, information describing one or more of a plurality of products, said plurality of products correspond to products displayed on said online product selling site,</u> said instructions comprising:

reading out a desired one of the items of first display information from said ~~external~~ storage medium;

causing the emulation screen, described by the read-out first information, to be displayed on ~~said~~ <u>a</u> display device, wherein the emulation screen and the screen of the music-piece-data selling site ~~imitated~~ <u>emulated</u> by the emulation screen are <u>substantially</u> similar in design and <u>layout</u> ~~function~~;

in response to an input signal from said operator unit, reading out the network address information of a ~~particular~~ selling site corresponding to said emulation screen from said ~~external~~ storage medium and transmitting the read-out network address information to the network;

receiving from said ~~particular~~ selling site via the network, second display information for displaying a screen of the ~~particular~~ selling site; and

~~switching the emulation screen, displayed on said display device, to~~ <u>displaying</u> the screen of the particular selling site on <u>said display device on</u> the basis of the received second display information.

Claim 10-21 (canceled)

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Claim 22 (currently amended): An information retrieval system for retrieving information via a network, said information retrieval system comprising:

a server apparatus comprising:

a storage device storing therein information related to a ~~one or more predetermined~~ music-piece-data selling site, said music-piece-data selling site offering for sale one ore more music-piece-data sets ~~sites~~; and

a processor device coupled with said storage device and adapted to:

receive network address information supplied via the network;

read out, from said storage device, information relating to the selling site that corresponds to the received network address information, said information related to the selling site including display information for displaying a screen of the selling site;

output the read-out information to the network; and

a client apparatus comprising:

a display device;

an operator unit; and

a processor device operatively coupled with a ~~removably-attachable external~~ storage medium, said display device and said operator unit, said ~~external~~ storage medium having ~~prestored~~ stored therein one or more items of display information each for displaying an emulation screen ~~imitating~~ emulating a screen of ~~each of the one or more predetermined music-piece-data sets offered for sale by the selling sites~~ said music-piece-data selling site; and network address information for calling the music-piece-data selling site ~~up any one of the selling sites~~, said processor device being adapted to:

read out a desired one of the items of display information from said external storage medium;

cause the emulation screen, described by the read-out display information, to be displayed on said display device, wherein the emulation screen and the screen of the music-piece-data selling site ~~imitated~~ emulated by the emulation screen are substantially similar in design and layout ~~function~~;

in response to an input signal from said operator unit, read out the network address information of ~~a particular~~ said selling site corresponding to said emulation screen from said ~~external~~ storage medium and transmit the read-out network address information to the network;

receive, from said ~~particular~~ selling site via the network, second display information for displaying a screen of the ~~particular~~ selling site; and

~~switch the emulation screen, displayed on said display device, to~~ displaying the screen of the ~~particular~~ selling site on the display device on the basis of the received second display information.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): An information retrieval system as claimed in claim 22, ~~wherein said storage device of said server apparatus stores therein one or more items of music piece data information, and~~

wherein said processor device of said server apparatus is further adapted to, in response to selection of a ~~music piece~~ music-piece-data set by an operation of the operator unit of said client apparatus, transmit to said client apparatus ~~display~~ music piece display data for displaying the selected ~~music piece~~ music-piece-data set in its entirety, and

wherein said processor device of said client apparatus is further adapted to permit selection of partial music piece data, in response to operation of the operator unit, from among the displaying music piece data transmitted by said server apparatus; and

obtain the selected partial music piece data from said server apparatus via the network.

Claims 25-33 (canceled)

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Claim 34 (previously presented): An external storage medium removably attachable to, and readable by, a client apparatus, said external storage medium storing therein a file for use in a method in which a user can order a music piece data set by accessing a server on a network,

wherein a plurality of items of specifying information specifying a respective music piece data set and a plurality of items of display information indicative of a related display objects are described in said file in a link-enabling format,

wherein each of the related display objects has at least one of first and second display modes,

wherein each of the items of specifying information is allocated to at least one of the related display objects,

wherein each of the items of specifying information allocated to the related display object having said first display mode specifies a music piece data set capable of being ordered by accessing said server, and a visual presentation of the related display object having said first display mode is linked with an address of the server for downloading the music piece data specified by the item of specifying information corresponding to the related display object,

wherein the music piece data set specified by the specifying information allocated to the related display object having said second display mode is recorded under the particular directory, and a visual presentation of the related display object having said second display mode is linked with a particular directory in said external storage medium, and

wherein at least one of the related display objects has said first display mode and at least one of the related display objects has said second display mode.

Claim 35 (currently amended): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said plurality of products are music-piece-data sets, and

wherein ~~where~~ the ~~predetermined music-piece-data~~ selling site is provided specifically for ~~each of~~ said apparatus and ~~handles music-piece-data~~ provides music-piece-data sets that can be handled by said apparatus~~, and the emulation screen imitating the screen, described by said first display information, of the predetermined music-piece-data selling site is provided for each of said apparatus~~.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A method as claimed in claim 4,

wherein said plurality of products are music-piece-data sets, and

wherein the ~~predetermined music-piece-data~~ selling site is provided specifically for ~~each apparatus of individual clients~~ the client apparatus and ~~handles music-piece-data~~ provides music-piece-data sets that can be handled by said apparatus~~, and the emulation screen imitating the screen, described by said first display information, of the predetermined music-piece-data selling site is provided for each of said apparatus~~.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A computer program as claimed in claim 6,

wherein said plurality of products are music-piece-data sets, and

wherein the ~~predetermined music-piece-data~~ selling site is provided specifically for said ~~each of~~ client apparatus and ~~handles music-piece-data~~ provides music-piece-data sets that can be handled by said apparatus~~, and the emulation screen imitating the screen, described by said first display information, of the predetermined music-piece-data selling site is provided for each of said client apparatus~~.

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Claim 38 (currently amended): ~~An external~~ storage medium as claimed in claim 9,

wherein said plurality of products are music-piece-data sets, and

wherein the ~~predetermined music-piece-data~~ selling site is provided specifically for ~~each~~

~~of~~ said apparatus and ~~handles music piece data~~ provides music-piece-data sets that can be

handled by said apparatus~~, and the emulation screen imitating the screen, described by said first~~

~~display information, of the predetermined music-piece-data selling site is provided for each of~~

~~said apparatus~~.

Claim 39 (canceled)

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Claim 40 (previously presented): A method for execution by a server on a network for supplying music piece data to a client terminal, said method comprising:

receiving, from said client terminal, first request information designating a desired music piece;

on the basis of said first request information received from said client terminal, transmitting, to said client terminal, display information for displaying the desired music piece in its entirety so that the entire desired music piece can be displayed on said client terminal on the basis of the display information;

receiving, from said client terminal, second request information designating at least a desired portion of the displayed music piece, said desired portion being selected, by a user of said client terminal, from a single music piece corresponding to the displayed music piece;

on the basis of said second request information received from said client terminal, creating partial music piece data that represent the desired music piece and correspond to the portion designated by said second request information; and

determining a selling price of the created partial music piece data.

Claim 41 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 40 wherein the display information to be transmitted to said client terminal is information for displaying the desired music piece as a musical score.

Claim 42 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 40 wherein said server includes a storage device for storing a complete music piece data set corresponding to the desired music piece.

Claim 43 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 40, further comprising a step of transmitting the created partial music piece data to said client terminal.

Claim 44 (previously presented): A method for execution by a client apparatus on a network to receive music piece data via the network from a server, said method comprising:

transmitting, to said server, first request information designating a desired music piece;

receiving, from said server, display information for displaying the desired music piece in its entirety;

displaying the entire desired music piece on the basis of the display information;

designating a desired portion of the displayed music piece and transmitting, to said server apparatus, second request information indicating the designated desired portion, said desired portion being designated from a single music piece corresponding to the displayed music piece; and

a step of inputting billing-related information and transmitting the billing-related information to said server apparatus to thereby effect purchase of the designated portion of the displayed music piece.

Claim 45 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 44, further comprising a step of receiving the partial music piece data from said server apparatus.

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Claim 46 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 45 wherein the partial music piece data to be received from said server apparatus include musical score data indicative of a musical score and reproduction data for reproducing the music piece.

Claim 47 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 44 wherein the predetermined billing-related information is at least one of a credit card number, an address to which an application form for remittance is to be sent, and user information for use of electronic money.

Claims 48-49 (canceled)

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Claim 50 (previously presented): A server apparatus for supplying music piece data to a client terminal, said apparatus comprising a programmed processor device for executing the steps of:

receiving, from said client terminal, first request information designating a desired music piece;

on the basis of said first request information received from said client terminal, transmitting, to said client terminal, display information for displaying the desired music piece in its entirety so that the entire desired music piece can be displayed on said client terminal on the basis of the display information;

receiving, from said client terminal, second request information designating at least a desired portion of the displayed music piece, said desired portion being selected, by a user of said client terminal, from a single music piece corresponding to the displayed music piece;

on the basis of said second request information received from said client terminal, creating partial music piece data that represent the desired music piece and correspond to the portion designated by said second request information; and

transmitting a selling price of the created partial music piece data.

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Claims 51 (previously presented): A client apparatus operatively coupled to a network for receiving music piece data via the network from a server, said client apparatus operatively coupled to a display device and an input device, said client apparatus comprising a programmed processor device programmed to execute the steps of:

transmitting, to said server, first request information designating a desired music piece;

receiving, from said server, display information for displaying the desired music piece in its entirety on the display device,

displaying on the display device the entire desired music piece on the basis of the display information,

in response to an input signal received from the input device, designating a desired portion of the displayed music piece and transmitting, to said server apparatus, second request information indicating the designated desired portion, said desired portion being designated from a single music piece corresponding to the displayed music piece

receiving from said input device billing-related information, and

transmitting the billing-related information to said server apparatus to thereby effect purchase of the designated portion of the displayed music piece.

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Claim 52 (currently amended): A client apparatus for a user to access a server on a network to order a music piece data set from the server, said client apparatus comprising:

a display device;

an operator device;

a processor coupled with said display device, said operator device and an external storage medium which is removably attached to said client apparatus, said processor being adapted to read out a file from said external storage medium and display, on the basis of the read-out file, a screen including a list of music pieces on said display device,

wherein, for each of the music pieces in the list included in the screen displayed on said display device, a visual representation indicating that the corresponding music piece is linked to said network or said external storage medium is displayed in association with the music piece,

wherein, when one of the visual representations, displayed on said display, which indicates that the corresponding music piece is linked to said external storage medium has been operated via said operator device, said processor accesses music piece data stored in a particular directory in said external storage medium, and

wherein, when one of the visual representations, displayed on said display device, which indicates that the corresponding music piece is linked to said network has been operated via said operator device, said processor connects to a server on said network, in accordance with address information associated with the visual representation, to receive, from the server, information of a music-piece-data specifying screen and then displays the music-piece-data specifying screen on said display device on the basis of the received information.

Claim 53 (previously presented): A computer program comprising a group of instructions for causing a computer of a client apparatus for a user to perform a method for accessing a server on a network to order a music piece data set from the server, said computer being coupled with an operator device and a display, and capable of coupling with a removably-attachable external storage medium, said method comprising the steps of:

reading out a file from said external storage medium;

displaying, on the basis of the read-out file, a screen including a list of music pieces on said display, wherein, for each of the music pieces in the list included in the screen displayed on said display, a visual representation indicating that the corresponding music piece is linked to said network or said external storage medium is displayed in association with the music piece;

when one of the visual representations, displayed on said display, indicates that the corresponding music piece linked to said external storage medium has been operated via said operator device, accessing music piece data stored in a particular director in said external storage medium;

when one of the visual representations, displayed on said display, indicates that the corresponding music piece linked to said network as been operated via said operator device, communicating with a server on said network in accordance with the address information associated with the visual representation in order to receive, from the server, information of a music-piece-data specifying screen; and

displaying the music-piece-data specifying screen on said display on the basis of the received information of a music-piece-data specifying screen.

Claim 54 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the emulation screen and the screen of the music-piece-data selling site are similar in design such that the contents and/or positions of various displayed text, numbers, graphical buttons, display areas, and/or color are all substantially identical.

Claim 55 (previously presented): An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the emulation screen and the screen of the music-piece-data selling site are similar in function such that the emulation screen provides the same processes and responses as does the music-piece-data selling site.

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